

at least two [vendor] product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective [vendors] sources;

means for selecting the [vendor] product catalogs to search;

means for searching for matching items among the selected [vendor] product catalogs;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items[.]; and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

~~5~~ 82. (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [79] ~~81~~ further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

~~5~~ 83. (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [79] ~~81~~ further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

84. (Amended) An electronic sourcing system comprising:
a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources;
means for searching for matching items in the database;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendors] sources; [and]

means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items[.]; and

means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

7 85. (Amended) An electronic sourcing system of claim [84] 87 wherein the requisition includes matching items from at least two [vendors] sources.

8 86. (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [84] 87 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to [vendor] catalog numbers.

6 87. (Amended) An electronic sourcing system comprising:
a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources;

means for searching for matching items in the database;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendors] source(s);

means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items[.]; and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

11 92. (Amended) An electronic sourcing system comprising:

at least two [vendor] product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective [vendors] sources;

means for searching for matching items among the [vendor] product catalogs;

means for building a requisition that includes a first matching item and a second matching item, each associated with a different [vendor] source; [and]

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for the first and the second matching items[.]; and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

95. (Amended) An electronic sourcing system comprising:

data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources maintained so that selected data may be searched separately;

means for searching for matching items among the selected data;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s).] source(s); and

means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

15 ~~96.~~ (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [95] ~~98~~ ¹⁴ wherein the purchase orders use data relating to at least two [vendors] sources.

16 ~~97.~~ (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [95] ~~98~~ ¹⁴ wherein the purchase orders use data relating to [vendor] catalog numbers.

17 ~~98.~~ (Amended) An electronic sourcing system comprising:
data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources maintained so that selected data may be searched separately;

means for searching for matching items among the selected data;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s).] source(s); and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

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~~14~~⁹⁹. (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [95] ~~98~~ further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

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~~14~~¹⁰⁰. (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim [95] ~~98~~ further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

21 103 19 (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim ~~101~~ ¹⁹ further comprising means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and [its] an associated [vendor] source to data relating to an item and a different [vendor] source [and a corresponding item].

19 24 104 (Amended) An electronic sourcing system of claim ~~101~~ ²⁴ wherein the requisition includes matching items from at least two [vendors] sources.

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~~105~~²⁴ (Amended) The electronic sourcing system of claim ~~104~~ ²⁴ wherein the purchase orders include data relating to the [vendor] source associated with the selected matching item.

26 ~~108~~. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
maintaining at least two [vendor] product catalogs on a database containing data relating to items associated with the respective [vendors] sources;

selecting the [vendor] product catalogs to search;
searching for matching items among the selected [vendor] product catalogs;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

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processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items[.]; and

determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

28 110. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least two [vendor] product catalogs on a database containing data relating to items associated with the respective [vendors] sources;

selecting the [vendor] product catalogs to search;

searching for matching items among the selected [vendor] product catalogs;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items[.]; and

converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

29 111. (Amended) The method of claim [108] 110 further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

30 112. (Amended) The method of claim [108] 110 further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

113. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources;

searching for matching items among the data relating to the items;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s).] source(s); and

determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

32 114. (Amended) The method of claim [113] *116* wherein the purchase orders use data relating to at least two [vendors] sources.

33 115. (Amended) The method of claim [113] *116* wherein the purchase orders use data relating to [vendor] catalog numbers.

31 116. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources;

searching for matching items among the data relating to the items;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] sources; [and]

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s).] source(s); and

converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

~~34~~ ³¹ 117. (Amended) The method of claim [113] ~~116~~ further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

~~35~~ ³¹ 118. (Amended) The method of claim [113] ~~116~~ further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

119. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing at least two [vendor] product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective [vendors] sources;

searching for matching items among the [vendor] product catalogs;

building a requisition that includes a first matching item and a second matching item, each from a different [vendor] product catalog; [and]

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for the first and the second matching items[.]; and

determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

~~37~~ ³⁶ 120. (Amended) The method of claim [119] ~~121~~ wherein a first purchase order uses data relating to the first matching

item and a second purchase order uses data relating to the second matching catalog item.

36 ~~121.~~ (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing at least two [vendor] product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective [vendors] sources;

searching for matching items among the [vendor] product catalogs;

building a requisition that includes a first matching item and a second matching item, each from a different [vendor] product catalog; [and]

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for the first and the second matching items[.]; and

converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

38 ~~122.~~ (Amended) The method of claim [119] ~~121~~ further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

39 ~~123.~~ (Amended) The method of claim [119] ~~121~~ further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

40 ~~124.~~ (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources whereby selected portions of the database may be searched separately;

searching for matching items among the selected portions of the database;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s).] source(s); and

determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

42 125. (Amended) The method of claim [124] 126 wherein a first purchase order uses data relating to selected matching items from a first [vendor] source and a second purchase order uses data relating to selected matching items from a second [vendor] source.

41 126. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two [vendors] sources whereby selected portions of the database may be searched separately;

searching for matching items among the selected portions of the database;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s)] source(s); [and]

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated [vendor(s).] source(s); and

converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

43 ⁴¹ ~~127~~ (Amended) The method of claim [124] ~~126~~ further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

44 ⁴¹ ~~128~~ (Amended) The method of claim [124] ~~126~~ further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

REMARKS

Claims 101-107 and 129 have been allowed.

Applicants have amended claims 81, 87, 98, 110, 116, 121 and 126 in independent form, per the Examiner's suggestion, and believe that these claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants believe the claims dependent therefrom likewise are in condition for allowance, specifically: claims 82 and 83 (dependent from claim 81); claims 85, 86, 90 and 91 (dependent from claim 87); claims 96, 97, 99 and 100 (dependent from claim 98); claims 111 and 112 (dependent from claim 110); claims 114, 115, 117 and 118 (dependent from claim 116); claims 120, 122 and 123 (dependent from claim 121); and claims 125, 127 and 128 (dependent from claim 126). Applicants believe that claim 92 and those dependent therefrom (claims 93 and 94) are likewise in condition for allowance since they have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as to the other claims.

Applicants have clarified the above claims by amending "vendor" to read "source". As Applicants explained in response to the first Office Action, the term "vendor" includes different suppliers and different sources from the same supplier, e.g.